

SCIENCE.

THE CHAMMYER—M. Pouchet, Director of the Musée de Natural History, in his new work thus describes the habits of this curious bird: "The speckled chlamymer is a bird resembling our partridge, but is distinguished by its deep red color, its short spurs, and its long, serrated bill with a red collar. For the location of their nest, the couple choose an open spot exposed to the sun. Their first care is to make a path of round pebbles; when they do this, they are thick, they plant it in a little tuft of branches. Then, after a short time, from the country slopes above, of trees, of about the same size, which they thrust solidly by the thick end into the interstices of the stones. The branches are disposed in two parallel rows, converging a little, in a manner similar to a staircase. The path leading to the nest is a yard in length, and is sufficiently wide to allow the two birds to walk along side of each other in the interior. This being finished, they devote themselves to the task of filling it out from the outside, so that the branches all start out from the center, and bring back all the sparseness. It seems pick-up—pearl shells, bird feathers, all that can charm the eye. These trophies are suspended at the entrance to the grove, which soon begins to shine in the sun like a picture of the Andes." In the pictures furnished by the observer, if a traveler loses his way, he will find the bird, he does not spend his time looking for it on the ground—he knows where to find it."

PROPAGATION OF SOUND IN TUBES—M. Kundt has made a series of elaborate experiments to determine the velocity of sound in tubes. He finds that the velocity diminishes with the diameter of the tube, and that it becomes impossible when the diameter is equal to one-fourth of the length of the air-waves producing a given sound. Starting with this diameter, he finds the velocity of sound diminishes with the increase of pitch, or, in other words, the velocity of sound increases in tubes. In tubes of small diameter he discovered that five power distributed over the interior checked the progress of sound in direct proportion to the quantity and lightness of the power; yet a roughness in the tube itself does not retard sound. The experiments show that the velocity of sound is not proportional to the velocity of the air-waves, but to the time taken to produce an influence on the rate of propagation. In this connection we may allude to the experiments recently made by M. Regnault of the French Institute, who has shown that the new wave in the city of Paris has the purpose of determining the time of day, the hour, producing sound by a pistol in tubes and severs of various diameters he found that the sound was carried, in a passage 4.2 inches in diameter, through a distance of 1,382 yards in a passage 18 inches in diameter, 4.2 miles in a passage 4.2 inches in diameter 44 yards. The manner of constructing the tube and the material of which it is composed exercises a great influence on the rapidity with which sound is transmitted.

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